

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 02635 041745Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 AID-05 EB-07 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 STR-04 OMB-01

CEA-01 AF-06 /102 W

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R 041535Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8189

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS ATHENS 2635

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GR, EG

SUBJECT: SADAT AND BITSIOS PRESS STATEMENTS

REF: ATHENS 1850

1. SUMMARY. GREEK PRESS APRIL 4 HEADLINED THAT SADAT WILL VISIT ATHENS PRIOR TO CARAMANLIS' PREVIOUSLY PROJECTED VISIT TO CAIRO AS OCCASIONED BY FONMIN BITSIOS' VISIT TO EGYPT APRIL 1-4. NEWSPAPERS ALSO FEATURED HIGHLIGHTS FROM BITSIOS' AND SADAT'S SEPARATE PRESS INTERVIEWS IN CAIRO BEFORE BITSIOS DEPARTURE FROM BEIRUT--SADAT AND BITSIOS' MUTUALLY CAUTIOUS COMMENTS ON MIDDLE EAST, THEIR JOINT PRAISE OF CANAL REOPENING, THEIR QUALIFIED ASSURANCES ON CYPRIOT NEGOTIATIONS; BITSIOS' VIEW ON GREEK/NATO NEGOTIATIONS STARTING SOON IN BRUSSELS; AND HIS REPEAT OF GREEK PLEDGE NOT TO ALLOW USAGE OF GREEK TERRITORIES IN ANY WAY AS BASES IN MIDEAST CONFLICT. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 ATHENS 02635 041745Z

2. IN INTERVIEW WITH GREEK RADIO/TV CORRESPONDENT, SADAT

ANNOUNCED HE HAD ACCEPTED INVITATION TO PAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO GREECE. DATE NOT SET BUT GREEK FM BITSIOS IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE SAID SADAT'S VISIT WOULD PRECEDE ALREADY ANNOUNCED CARAMANLIS TRIP TO CAIRO. BITSIOS SEEMED TO HEDGE ANNOUNCEMENT BY EXPRESSING HOPE THAT NUMEROUS PROBLEMS CONFRONTING SADAT WOULD NOT PREVENT HIM FROM VISITING GREECE.

3. ON CYPRUS, SADAT SAID THAT IN TALK WITH BITSIOS, "I AGREED THAT WE MUST DO WHATEVER WE CAN AND UNDERTAKE SOME INITIATIVE SO THAT THE SITUATION MAY MOVE FROM ITS PRESENT STATE OF STAGNATION. PRESIDENT MAKARIOS IS A DEAR FRIEND, AND WE HAVE MADE OUR POSITION QUITE CLEAR. WE SUPPORT PRESIDENT MAKARIOS AND THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF CYPRUS." SADAT SAID FROM TALKS WITH DR. KISSINGER HE FELT SECRETARY WAS PREPARED TO DO THE BEST HE COULD TO SETTLE CYPRUS ISSUE AND DESCRIBED LATTER'S EFFORT AS HONEST. ACCOREING TO EARLIER PRESS ACCOUNTS, SADAT REPORTEDLY ASSURED BITSIOS OF "POSITIVE ATTITUDE" WHICH EGYPT MAINTAINS ON CYPRUS ISSUE. BITSIOS SAID AT HIS APRIL 2 MEETING WITH SADAT THAT WAYS AND MEANS OF EGYPT HELPING TO BREAK CYPRUS DEADLOCK WERE DISCUSSED BUT MATTER OF SADAT SERVING AS MEDIATOR DID NOT ARISE SINCE UN HAD LAID DOWN FRAMEWORK AND SITE FOR NEW TALKS. BITSIOS ADDED THAT IF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS RESUMED, THIS WOULD PAVE WAY FOR A MEETING BETWEEN HIM AND TURKISH FM AT WHICH BOUNDARIES OF "ECONOMIC ZONE" IN AEGEAN WOULD BE DISCUSSED.

4. ON MIDDLE EAST, SADAT SAID GENEVA CONFERENCE WAS ONLY ALTERNATIVE FOR PEACE AND REOPENING OF SUEZ CANAL SHOWED EGYPT STANDS FOR PEACE. BITSIOS PRAISED SADAT FOR CANAL REOPENING AND SAID IT WOULD BRING GREECE CLOSER TO ITS ARAB FRIENDS ESPECIALLY IN ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SECTORS. EARLIER IN ARRIVAL STATEMENT BITSIOS WAS QUOTED AS REMARKING THAT GREECE'S POLICY ON THE MIDDLE EAST QUESTION IS VERY CLOSE TO THE DESIRES OF THE EGYPTIAN PEOPLE. BITSIOS SAID AGREEMENT HAD BEEN SIGNED BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES TO MUTUALLY ENCOURAGE AND SAFEGUARD CAPITAL INVESTMENT AND OPEN WAY FOR LARGE TECHNICAL COMPANIES TO INCREASE ACTIVITIES. UNIDENTIFIED GREEK SOURCE IN CAIRO REPORTEDLY SAID FURTHER AGREEMENT SIGNED WHICH WOULD STEP UP INDEMNIFICATION OF NATIONALIZED GREEK PROPERTY.

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PAGE 03 ATHENS 02635 041745Z

5. REPLYING TO QUESTIONS, BITSIOS RECALLED GOG ATTITUDE IN REFUSING PERMISSION FOR USE OF BASES ON GREEK TERRITORY FOR INVOLVEMENT IN MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT WAS ALREADY WELL KNOWN, AND REITERATED GREEK TERRITORIES WILL NOT BE SO INVOLVED IN ANY WAY.

COMMENT: THE SAME POLICY WAS LAST EXPLICITLY STATED BY FM PALAMAS ON OCTOBER 13, 1973 AND IN AUGUST 1972.

6. ON NATO BITSIOS SAID THAT GREECE WAS REASSESSING ITS  
POSITION TOWARD THE ALLIANCE AND THAT TALKS TO SETTLE  
MILITARY RELATIONS WOULD OPEN SOON IN BRUSSELS.  
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